

VZCZCXYZ0028  
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHZP #1189 1931411  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 121411Z JUL 07  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0811  
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY 2604  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 0700  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC//DHO-5// PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 001189

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR FOR WHA/CEN - TELLO & FOR WHA/EPSC - KUBISKE  
ALSO FOR EB/TPP/BTA - LAMPRON  
STATE PASS USTR - SCHWAB, VERONEAU, AND EISSENSTAT  
USDOC/MAC - GAISFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/13/2017  
TAGS: [ETRD](#) [ECON](#) [PM](#)  
SUBJECT: PANAMA: PRESIDENT TORRIJOS GRIPES THAT U.S.  
CONGRESS MOVING TPA GOALPOSTS

Classified By: Ambassador William A. Eaton - Reasons 1.5(b and d)

¶1. (C) It would be "unfair and unwise" for the U.S. Congress to "move the goalposts" before acting on the U.S.-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement (TPA), President Martin Torrijos told Ambassador on July 9. He was unhappy with recent statements from the U.S. Congress indicating that Panama and Peru had to pass all implementing legislation before the U.S. Congress would vote on the TPA. He recounted Panama's "good faith" efforts so far to legislate and implement necessary changes (such as creating a new, science-based Food Safety Authority to better manage sanitary & phytosanitary issues) even before signature of the TPA. Torrijos said the GOP would do the same if other legislation was required.

¶2. (C) Torrijos feared that the U.S. Congress' possible imposition of new pre-conditions for its action on the TPA could stir up nationalistic fervor in Panama that would be unhelpful for the TPA. He planned to visit New York City later in July, where he hoped to meet with House Ways and Means Chairman Charles Rangel to prevent any "unpleasantness" during Rangel's August trip to Panama.  
Eaton